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The Sacramento Star

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New Furor In SF Over AIDS And Lifestyles

Dr. James Curran, coordinator of the AIDS Task Force at the Centers for Disease Control, responded to reports of increased incidence of venereal disease among gay men in San Francisco by saying that gay bathhouses "should all go out of business," according to a story by reporter Randy Shilts in the Feb. 3 issue of the San Francisco Chronicle.

Although Curran did not advocate government intervention to close down the baths, political leaders of San Francisco's gay community told Shilts they fear government regulation if gay men continue to ignore the health hazards of indiscriminate sexual activity.

Curran's comments came as a result of two recent studies by the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

The first study shows increasingly higher rates of rectal gonorrhea among gay men. The incidence of rectal gonorrhea dropped dramatically last summer during what the Chronicle termed "the AIDS scare." But the new figures indicate that gay men in The City are again engaging in sexual activity considered to pose high risks for contracting AIDS.

The second study is a survey of 655 gay men that compares the sexual practices of men in steady relationships with those of men who have sex with numerous different sexual partners whom they meet in bars and bathhouses. This study shows that many gay men persist in frequenting bathhouses and sex clubs even though they are aware of the danger.

In an interview with the Chronicle, the CDC's Curran said, "I wish the gay community would officially express concern over bathhouses. I'd like to see all the bathhouses go out of business. I've told bathhouse owners they should diversify and go into something healthy—like become gymnasiums."

He continued, "Gay men need to know that if they're going to have promiscuous sex, they won't live very long. They'll have the life expectancy of people in the developing world."

According to Dr. Donald Abrams, assistant director of the AIDS clinic at San Francisco General Hospital, throughout history public baths have been closed in times of epidemics.

Abrams, one of three physicians advising the health department on AIDS policy, said, "More people are dying of AIDS every week — it's clear that the bathhouses need to close.

"I don't think they should be closed by the government, but they need to close because of lack of business. I'm in favor of a boycott."

San Francisco's most prominent gay politician, Supervisor Harry Britt, said he was "extremely frustrated" that gay men would still "risk their lives" by going to the baths and sex clubs.

"Unless gay people do something to change their lifestyle, the inevitable end is going to be government regulation. At some point," he said, "some medical person or health official is going to say the bathhouses and sex clubs have to go."

Despite this seeming unanimity by authorities on the problems engendered by men engaging in sex with multiple partners in the baths and sex clubs, there is little unanimity on what to do about it.

Dr. Mervyn Silverman, director of the Department of Public Health, said the department would take no action about the bathhouses, and that it planned no new efforts in AIDS education.

"Closing baths is not the answer," he said, "even though it might make me look good to a lot of people in the straight community. . . . Government generally has not been very influential in changing people's sexual habits. Any action on this is going to have to come from the gay community, not my office."

Although Silverman said he planned to meet with representatives from Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights, a group composed largely of gay doctors, there were indications that such a meeting was not likely to be very productive. BAPHR officials say that the group is split over the bathhouse issue.

According to Dr. Selma Dritz of the Bureau of Communicable Disease Control, the substantial increase in the incidence of rectal gonorrhea recorded since September parallels "increased activity at the bathhouses, sex clubs, and adult bookstores."

Noting she had logged in eight new cases of AIDS on Jan. 30 alone, Dritz stated, "Sexual activity in this kind of place is highly dangerous—not for moral, ethical, or political reasons, but purely from a public health point of view."

The survey of sexual practices of gay men, conducted by three gay psychotherapists, found that most gay men have adjusted their lifestyles to reduce the risk of contracting AIDS. But it also showed that those who frequented the baths were the least likely to change and the most likely to engage in risky sexual activities.

The study concluded that "The efforts of the Public Health Department have been ineffective in influencing sexual activity at bathhouses."

This conclusion was the subject of a follow-up story by Randy Shilts in the Feb. 4 Chronicle.

Dr. Marcus Conant, a leading AIDS researcher at the University of California, San Francisco, said, "This information begs one question. What are we going to do about compulsively promiscuous men? How can we reach these people?"

Supervisor Harry Britt announced that he would meet with doctors to discuss a new educational campaign—outside the efforts of the health department, if necessary.

"Sexual activity in places like baths or sex clubs should no longer be associated with pleasure," he said. "It should be associated with death."

Other researchers, some of whom requested anonymity because they work with the health department, derided as ineffectual the educational efforts of the AIDS Foundation, which were funded by the health department. The campaign's "safe sex" approach has made gay men complacent about AIDS, they said.

"The city should force the bathhouses to put up pictures of AIDS patients in the advanced stages of the disease, so people know what AIDS is really like," one such researcher said.

One of the psychotherapists who con-

Photo Special to The STAR

Mary Watkins In Concert

Mary Watkins, composer, pianist, arranger, songwriter, producer, and performer, will headline the first concert in the Spectra 84 series Saturday, February 11, at 8 p.m. in the McClatchy High School Auditorium. Also on the program are rhythm and blues performers Gayle Marie and Jan Martinelli. With a degree in composition from Howard University and experience in mainstream jazz as well as women's music, Watkins is a total musician. See story on page 3.

Medi-Cal Will Pay For Drug Used In Some AIDS Cases

The California Department of Health Services Medi-Cal program has backed down on its refusal to pay for costs associated with the treatment of certain AIDS patients. Medi-Cal was refusing to pay when people with pneumocytosis pneumonia were treated with pentamadine. National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA) had threatened the state agency with a lawsuit if they didn't change their policy.

Medi-Cal claimed they could not approve of pentamadine treatment because it was experimental. Leonard Graff, NGRA Legal Director, called that claim unfounded.

"The Center for Disease Control," he said, "distributes this medication and until a few years ago it was the first drug of choice. It has to be used because many people are allergic to the only other drug available, a sulfer-based medication."

Jean O'Leary, NGRA Executive Director, said, "We are committed to insuring that people with AIDS are treated equitably. This case was a total victory for the gay community."

William A. White, Chief of Medi-Cal Benefits Branch, agreed that "...it is now the position of the Department of Health Services that Medi-Cal benefits include the use of pentamadine." Furthermore, there will be a retroactive review of earlier cases that were not certified for funding.

The National Gay Task Force helped in the case by using their contacts in Washington, D.C. to put pressure on Medi-Cal.★

OPINION

The Redneck And The Lesbian

By JOAN DERRICK

"Come now, and let us reason together..."
Isaiah 1:18

Thirty or so people gathered at First United Methodist Church, 21st and J Streets, on Sunday, Jan. 22. Someone had a portable radio, and as we drank coffee and ate cheese and crackers, conversation revolved around the great game the Raiders were playing at the Super Bowl, briefly keeping us from the topic of the evening—homophobia.

Pastor John Moore opened the first of four sessions on homophobia by saying the seminar was "planned for our own members to help us deal with where we are, but when a TV channel contacted me, my anxieties were triggered." He went on to explain why they declined the station's request to tape at the seminar.

I thought about his "for our own members" remark. Letters sent to the media said "open to the public," and when I interviewed Associate Pastor Marilyn Erickson two weeks earlier I had been urged to invite my friends and the pastors of my church.

Moore talked at length about the reasons for doing a series of seminars on homophobia, and concluded by saying, "I don't expect that we're going to agree, nor that we will change very much. I do hope that we will be able to listen, to talk about the issue and get to the heart of the issue."

Splitting into four smaller groups, we listed "fears that society in general has of people who are homosexuals." Coming together again in about 30 minutes, we compiled all the "fears" into a single large list. The 20 or so "fears" ranged from child molesting and recruitment to moral decay of society and destruction of the church.

Then the discussion started. Some members of the church expressed their concern about "those who flaunt it," and said, "If we all look the same it's fine, but when you dress different, you've broken the agreement. We were ready to accept you, but you broke the deal." They also remarked that "what you do on your own side of the fence is fine, but..."

Some of the few gay people in the group responded to these fears and comments by telling the speakers that they were "only seeing the stereotypes, not all gays," and that "sometimes what is perceived as 'flaunting' is identification with a group."

There was much discussion of child molesting, and a call to "look at the statistics." During the discussion of recruiting," the group was challenged to consider the question, "Do heterosexuals recruit?"

Here, too, gay men and lesbians in the group shared their own stories. One said, "I knew when I was four," and another declared, "I was never recruited." A third said, "I spent too many years hiding from reality; finally I had to speak out."

There were positive comments, too. One woman was overjoyed that her church was finally talking about homosexuality. She has a gay relative.

Overall, I left the first meeting feeling frustrated and angry. We had listened to their "fears," but what about our fears? I talked with Marilyn Erickson on the phone later and suggested "equal time." She said they'd try to fit it in. I was amazed that it hadn't been planned for that same evening.

A week later we gathered again. Erickson opened with a reading of the story of the Good Samaritan and a brief prayer, then four people shared their stories.

Jean and Ellie, both around 50 years old, have been active in the Methodist Church for most of their lives, and now, having come out as lesbians later in life, are starting a local chapter of Affirmation, a support group for lesbian and gay Methodists.

The Rev. Merrill Follansbee and his wife Muriel spoke about their gay son and their work with the Sacramento chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

Following their talks, Jean Hansen of PFLAG joined them for a question and answer session.

A small, informal discussion by several people after the second seminar was, for me, the most interesting and productive part of the evening. For lack of a better title, I'll call it "The Redneck and the Lesbian." The first evening, I had identified one man as "that redneck" because of his comments, including the one about "your own side of the fence." To that I had responded, "This is my side of the fence."

At the end of the second evening, we were suddenly face to face. We began, again, to discuss the issue. Suddenly we both listened to what we were saying.

He said, "I'm on the board of Christian Education for this church, and we were told this was going to be an in-house thing."

I said, "The press releases said 'public invited.'"

We realized that we had been told different things. He had expected it to be "all in the family," and I had been invited, but felt unwelcome.

We continued talking outside for an hour, and later talked more on the phone. We found that we were not so far apart as we had thought. We were no longer the redneck and the lesbian: we were Jim and Joan, two Christians, both concerned about an issue, but now were more willing to speak and listen, to share and care.

I began to see that even out of a situation full of misunderstanding, strongly-held feelings, and even stereotypes, a great deal of understanding can come. We can talk. We can listen.

The final two sessions in First United Methodist Church's seminar on homophobia will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. on Feb. 12 (Faith, the Bible, and Theology) and Feb. 26 (lifestyles, ethics, civil rights, and civil liberties). And, yes, "the public is invited." Join us—let's talk. ★

For more information about Affirmation for gay and lesbian Methodists, contact Jean at 500-1029 or Ellie at 372-6033.

AS I SEE IT

No Pain, No Gain

By RICK RUMAN

I tend to think of a relationship as a kind of aerobic exercise class for the emotions; a test of endurance in which the statement, "No pain, no gain" may be more apt than one would like to admit.

From this, then, stems my view that most relationships founder because the parties involved fail to put enough energy into making them work. Since I am not currently *in* a relationship, my vision is unsullied by romantic notions and I have been able to identify one specific exercise that, when pursued frequently and with vigor, can add countless hours to the duration of most relationships:

A good, spirited argument about something truly pointless.

The experienced argumenteer avoids politics and religion as topics if at all possible. As subjects for argument (not debate) these have major failings: you are each likely to have valid opinions (unless one of you is a Republican), and there are facts at hand on which a legitimate case for a particular point of view can be based (the aforementioned case again applies).

Instead, when I sense the onset of the doldrums, or more to the point, an incipient relationship, I prefer to tackle one of the two burning issues of our time; the subject of *Ann Landers and Dear Abby columns;* the bane of stifling domestic bliss: When installed on the roller, should the toilet paper roll off the front of the roll—or the back? And, why?

Can you see the possibilities here? Just when you think you have the thing settled, pattern or embossing comes into the fray and plunges the issue into dispute once again.

If you have an automatic dishwasher at home, try this one some evening after the two of you have just finished a romantic dinner by candlelight: Should the flatware be loaded into the basket with the handles up or down? And, why?

Are the advantages of greater exposure of the food-touching surfaces to the water and detergent outweighed by the disadvantages of having to touch those clean surfaces with unsanitary fingers to remove the utensils after the dishwasher has been run?

There is one more topic. But, I caution you to attempt this one only if you have perfected your technique on the two topics already mentioned. Begin by facing off across any room in your house or apartment. Then, take turns completing the following phrase: "If you *really* loved me you would (wouldn't)...."★

CALENDAR

Wednesday, February 8

★ The STAR is published.

★ Guest Speaker for Black History Week. Dorothy Parrish, City of Berkeley Personnel Director, speaks on "Racism in the Educational System." Redwood Room, University Union, CSUS. 3 p.m.

★ NOW Lesbian Rights Task Force. Call Marcy, 921-2835 for info. 7 p.m.

★ Sacramento Men's Collective facilitated workshop. La Semilla. 7:30 p.m. Call 441-1959 for information.

★ Clogging Party with Sutter's Stompers and Ron Brewer. 7-10 p.m. Volcano Room, Coloma Community School, 4623 T St. Exhibition dancing, mixers, refreshments. Call Joe, 455-7002, for more information.

Thursday, February 9

★ Volleyball for men and women. Sponsored by Our River City Family. $2.50 facilities fee. Call Paul, 371-2946, for info. Sacramento City College Women's Gym. 7-11 p.m.

★ Support group for women facing major life changes. Sponsored by Women Changing Direction. First Sacramento Women's Building, 2224 J St. Child care available by prior arrangement. For info: 444-8050. 7-9 p.m.

Saturday, February 11

★ SDA Kinship Potluck. 455-8940 or 485-1694 (Ren, Regional Director) for info.

★ Sacramento Women's Rugby Team plays Santa Cruz at Santa Cruz.

★ Valentine's Ball. Sponsored by La Raza del Ambiente. Live Latin band. No-host bar. Tickets $5 advance, $7 at the door. The Forum. 8 p.m.-1 a.m. Call Chica at 444-6371 for more info.

★ Mary Watkins and Gayle Marie with Jan Martinelli in concert. Presented by Spectra 84 to benefit Sacramento Women's Center. $7-$10. Tickets: Lioness Books. McClatchy High School Auditorium. 8 p.m.

★ "Dance Through the Decades." Benefit Valentine's Dance for WEAVE (Women Escaping A Violent Environment). Music and dances of the 50's, 60's, & 70's. General $5, students/seniors $4. Sierra II cafeteria, 24th & Castro. 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 12

★ *Abraham Lincoln's Birthday*

★ Worship Service. Young people's rap & social hour afterwards. River City Metropolitan Community Church, 2741 34th St. 454-4762. 11 a.m.

★ Dignity/Sacramento Mass & meeting. St. Francis Church, 26th and K Streets. 3 p.m. 444-8939 for info.

★ Seminar on Homophobia. Third of four seminars led by Revs. John Moore and Marilyn Ericksen. Terrace Room, First United Methodist Church, 21st and J Streets. 5-7

See Page 7

STAR CLASS ADS GET RESULTS

The Sacramento STAR

Reaching Your Community Every Two Weeks!

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Photo Special to The STAR

Gayle Marie, versatile performer/composer, will be featured in concert with Mary Watkins and Jan Martinelli on Feb. 11. Her 1982 album "Night Rainbow," a showcase of her songs, demonstrates that her songwriting is as skilled as her singing.

Women's History Week Will Start With Parade March 4

National Women's History Week is March 4-10 and the Sacramento YWCA, along with several other local women's organizations, is offering a weeklong series of celebratory activities.

Local celebration of Women's History Week begins with a parade, led by Mayor Anne Rudin, from Old Sacramento to the west steps of the Capitol, at 12 noon on Sunday, March 4.

"Celebrating the Gains: Reaching the Goals" is the theme of the parade in which the entire community is invited to participate.

"People are encouraged to participate in the parade dressed as a famous woman, in period clothing, in ethnic costume or as themselves," said Tracey Bingham, YWCA Special Events director.

A rally following the parade at the Capitol features short speeches by local activists, entertainment and the reading of two winning compositions from the Real Woman Writing Contest.

Parade assembly begins at 11:30 a.m. on the lawn area across from the state Railroad Museum. The rally is scheduled to end at 2:30 p.m.

The Women's History Week parade was organized by representatives from the Sacramento YWCA, Project Equity, Sacramento City College Re-Entry Program, the Sacramento City Unified School District Title IX Sex Equity Resource Center, the California Black Cultural Assembly, the Asian Cultural Exchange, the Coalition of Labor Union Women and Womankind.

Events planned at the YWCA for National Women's History Week include:

- The opening of the Women's History Resource Center, 5:30-7 p.m. Wednesday, March 7;
- A hall display about the History of California Women, 1720-1920, and of Women in Science;
- Taped music featuring women artists;
- A hall display, later in March, entitled "Black, Asian, White, Hispanic and Indian Women In American History." This is a permanent display which will be housed in Sacramento after its showing at the YWCA.

A film festival at Sacramento City College rounds out the week's events.

A complete calendar of Women's History Week events in Sacramento is available at the YWCA, 1122 17th Street. ★

Concert Series Will Raise Money For Women's Center

Jazz artist Mary Watkins will join rhythm and blues performers Gayle Marie and Jan Martinelli in a fundraising concert for the programs represented by the Sacramento Women's Center. The event, produced by Satin Jacket Productions, will be held on Saturday, February 11, at 8 p.m. in the McClatchy High School Auditorium.

Sacramento Women's Center is a non-profit group comprised of Sacramento Rape Crisis Center, Women's Employment Services and Training, and Women Changing Direction. This performance is the first of a series, "SPECTRA 84," being produced by Satin Jacket Productions, a group of volunteers who have come together to raise much-needed funds for the Women's Center.

The performers are popular recording artists who will be performing selections from recently released albums as well as new works.

Tickets for the concert are $7 - $10 and are available in Sacramento at Lioness Books, 2224 J Street, or in Davis at The Blue Mango, 330 G Street. For concert information call 447-3223. ★

Ongoing Study Group Finds Out The Bible Says It's Possible To Be Christian And Gay

By JOAN DERRICK

"Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason for the hope that is in you." I Peter 3:15

In January, I attended two sessions on homosexuality and Scripture led by Larry Dunlap at River City Metropolitan Community Church. We opened each session with a prayer that our hearts and minds would be open to what God had to say to us.

Dunlap explained some background on translations of the Bible and approaches to study of Scripture. In each session we examined numerous passages from the Bible, shared thoughts and feelings, read from the various translations we had brought, and looked at a number of commentaries, studies, and the original Hebrew and Greek.

Despite the evening chill, the furnace soon warmed the room where we met. Even more, as people shared ideas and experiences, spirits were warmed.

Each participant was committed, not to being liberal or to "bending Scripture," but to a willingness to take an honest look at what the Bible says about homosexuality.

For some of us, it was coming back to what we've examined before. For some, it was a first look. But the conclusion was the same: Yes, it is possible to be Christian and gay.

We talked about sharing with others and how to approach answering those questions that start, "Well, the Bible says this, so..." We wanted to learn how to answer honestly, openly, and with understanding.

Larry Dunlap is leading a Bible study on Wednesday evenings at 7:30. This study takes a more in-depth look at homosexuality and the Bible, and in the next few weeks will include study of specific verses as well as how to respond to questions. It is not necessary to attend every session; drop-ins are welcome. For information about where the study is being held, contact Larry Dunlap at 454-5762.

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FEATURE

♥Valentine's Day Is For Lovers♥

My Heart Dropped To My Toes And Fluttered For 15 Minutes

By KATHY DAVENPORT

I was a frustrated musician living with a woman who had been my lover for five years. But our relationship was starting to deteriorate. She worked, I worked part-time and went to school (sometimes). That's when I decided to put an ad in the paper for women musicians. I wanted my own band. I was tired of the way things were going playing in other people's bands.

Then, one day at 11 a.m., the phone rang. I dragged myself out of bed and picked up the receiver. The voice said, "I'm calling about the ad in the paper for women musicians."

I responded with something like, "Well, you called the right place." I then proceeded to explain about what kind of guitar players I was looking for. We agreed on an audition day and time and then we hung up.

I remember the audition night very well. The doorbell rang. I opened the door and there stood a then-20-year-old Debbie with long brown hair. My heart dropped down to my toes and fluttered for the first 15 minutes of our meeting. It was definitely love at first sight for me.

Then came the problem of the inevitable boyfriend. By the way, her boyfriend was the one who insisted that she answer the ad in the paper.

I hired Debbie because she was a good guitar player as well as a good singer. Her boyfriend came to band practice with her and I would watch them make out on the floor. It was a very painful experience, since I was in love and all.

To make a long story a little shorter, Debbie started coming to practice alone and earlier than she was expected. She would ask me all kinds of questions like, "What do women do together anyway and did you ever go to bed with a man?" She knew I liked her, but I never pushed it.

When we did our first gig, Debbie was so excited that at the end (after a lot of wine) she kissed two women that I knew. I stood in line (how humiliating), but it was worth it, because we have been together ever since. That was ten years ago.

Needless to say, she stopped seeing her boyfriend. He was the person who thought of the name "FILLY" for our band. (Thanks, Emmet, wherever you are.)

Debbie and I and FILLY will be celebrating our 10th anniversary on April 14, 1984 at the Forum Lounge, 2840 Auburn Blvd. We will be donating part of the proceeds to two well-deserving organizations: the Sacramento Rape Crisis Center and the Sacramento AIDS Foundation. Tickets will be priced on a sliding scale from $3 to $5 and may be purchased at the door.

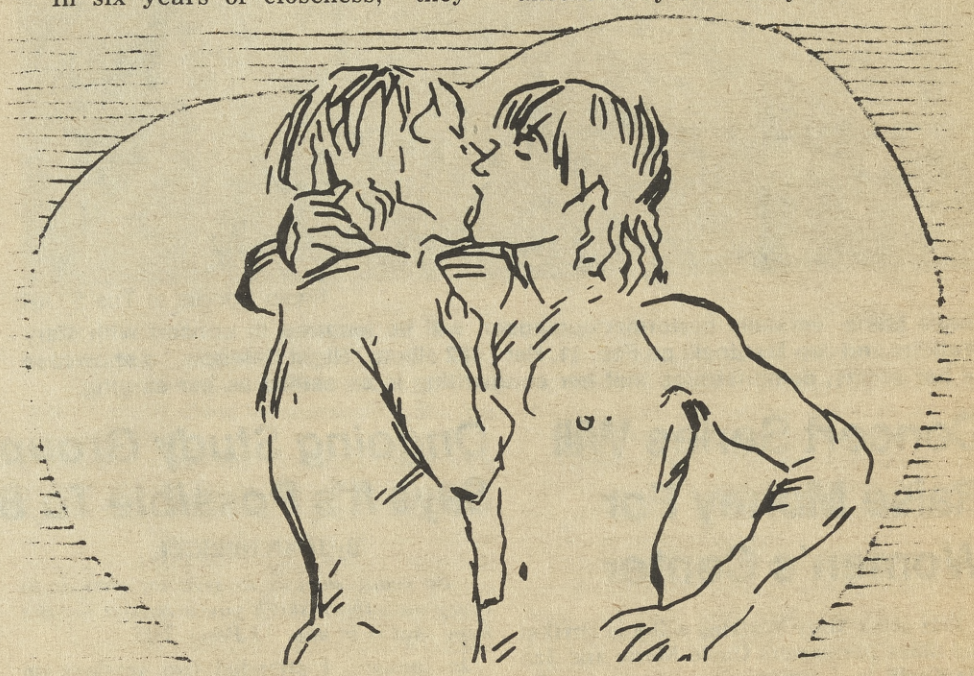
By the way, Happy Valentine's Day to all of you lovers out there!★

Another Six Years—Easy!

Edie Jardine and Yvonne Frazier met in December 1977 at an organizing meeting concerning Dr. Josette Mondanaro's dismissal from her post in state government under Governor Jerry Brown. Their first evening out together was to hear Willie BoBo play at the Woodlake Inn.

"In six years of closeness," they say, "we have managed (somehow) to bring two children into adolescence, buy a house, stay sober, share one car, help start a cooking club, take vacations from Seattle to Washington, D.C., work together, argue, and play."

As for their plans for the future: "another six years—easy!" ♥



Five Years—It Can Be Done!

Loren Swartos and Scott Detrick will have been together for five years in May.

"As old and corny as it may sound, it was definitely love at first sight," says Swartos.

The two met at the Boren Street Disco, a gay bar in Seattle, Wash. Within a month after they met, they moved in together.

Detrick explains that he was spending so much time at Swartos' apartment that first month that it was only logical for them to set up housekeeping together.

The couple lived on Capitol Hill in Seattle, but soon Detrick grew homesick for his native California. After discussing the matter with his lover, he asked his employer, Ma Bell, to transfer him to California. Swartos also worked for the phone company and asked to join Detrick.

Detrick was transferred to Sacramento and Swartos wasn't. He ended up leaving the phone company's employ.

The couple's formula for staying together is love. "The main thing that keeps us together is that we really love each other," says Detrick.

Swartos says that it takes "communication, trust, understanding, and a sense of humor. We have a wonderful life together and are very much in love with one another!"

He continues, "For those who think a relationship won't work or last, forget it—it can be done!"

The two, who are both 29 years old, have been working for about a year and a half with a friend on an original musical comedy. When they have finished it, they would like to produce it locally, and maybe get to Broadway in about 10 years. ♥

Dance 50s Thru 70s To Benefit Family Violence Program

"Dance Through the Decades," a Valentine's Day dance featuring music and dancing from the 1950's, 60's and 70's, will be held Saturday, February 11, 1984, from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. in the Sierra II School Cafeteria, 2791 24th St.

The dance is a benefit for WEAVE (Women Escaping A Violent Environment). WEAVE operates a shelter for battered women and a counseling center for victims of family violence.

Tickets for the dance are $5 in advance or at the door ($4 for seniors, students, handicapped).

"Dance Through the Decades" will also feature prizes for the best costume from each decade and prizes for winners of the dance contest from each decade. Beer and wine will be available to purchase.★

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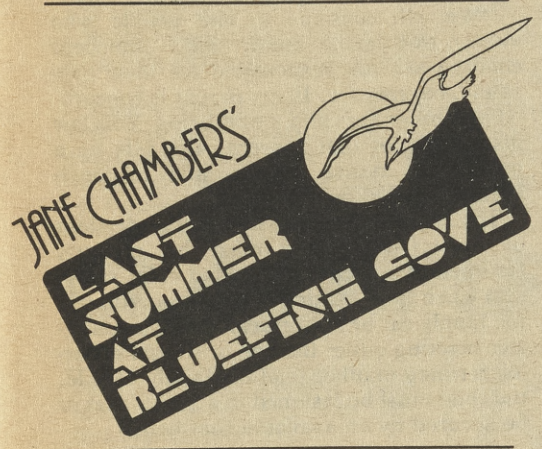
Highly Acclaimed Lesbian Play Will Open Run In SF In April

Jane Chambers' critically acclaimed drama about lesbian interactions, "Last Summer at Bluefish Cove," now in its second year at a Los Angeles waiver house, will receive a full-blown professional staging in San Francisco at the hand of renowned Broadway director Marshall W. Mason, with a scheduled opening at the Theatre-on-the-Square on April 1.

The first major play to explore the sensitive area of lesbian relationships in depth, "Last Summer at Bluefish Cove" breaks new ground in the theatre. It seems especially appropriate for Mason's talents, since he has so masterfully staged Lanford Wilson's gay-populated plays in the past.



Mason, a four-time Tony Award nominee, has the distinction of being the only director to receive the Pulitzer Prize (for Lanford Wilson's "Talley's Folly"). In addition to presenting over 100 world premieres as Artistic Director and founder of New York's Circle Repertory Theatre, Mason has been the recipient of six Obie Awards, the New York Drama Critics Circle Award and the Theatre World Award. His long string of stage successes includes such hits as "Fifth of July" (which he also mounted for "Showtime" and PBS), "Gemini" and "The Hot l Baltimore."

"We're excited and privileged to have a director of Mr. Mason's esteem and vision at the helm of this new production," said producer Judy Miller who, with co-producer Jerry B. Wheeler, is in the process of finalizing capital for the Equity staging, in addition to solidifying a film deal.

The Los Angeles version of "Bluefish Cove" continues playing at the Fountain Theatre to "sold-out" houses more than a year after its opening and recently was awarded six 1983 Drama-Logue Awards in addition to a 1983 Media Award for Best Theatre Production from the Alliance for Gay Artists (AGA).

For reservations to remaining Los Angeles performances throughout February, call the box office at (213) 660-3264. The Fountain Theatre is located at 5060 Fountain Avenue, Hollywood.★

Theatre's "Cast Party" Costume Event Is Feb. 19

Fred Astaire may be puttin' on his top hat and Taco can be puttin' on the Ritz all he wants, but it is the Capitol Community Theater (CCT) of the Sacramento YWCA that is puttin' on the best "First Annual Cast Party—A Costume Event."

The Cast Party, set for 8 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 19 at the YWCA, 1122 17th Street, is a fund-raising effort by the theater group.

"We want people to come dressed as either their favorite fictional character or historical personage," said CCT President, Tim Fenkell.

Festivities include music, dancing, hors d'oeuvres and a no host bar.

An "I'd Kill For That Part" costume contest and "If They Could See Me Now" open mike competition are also part of the evening.

Tickets are $5 in advance, $7 at the door for those in costume, $10 at the door for those not in costume. For reservations send check, payable to Capitol Community Theater, along with your name, address and phone number to: CCT/YWCA, 1122 17th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Costume contest registration is on the night of the Cast Party; for more information about the open mike contest call 442-2630.★

Chamber Orchestra Concert

Cellist Will Solo In Schumann

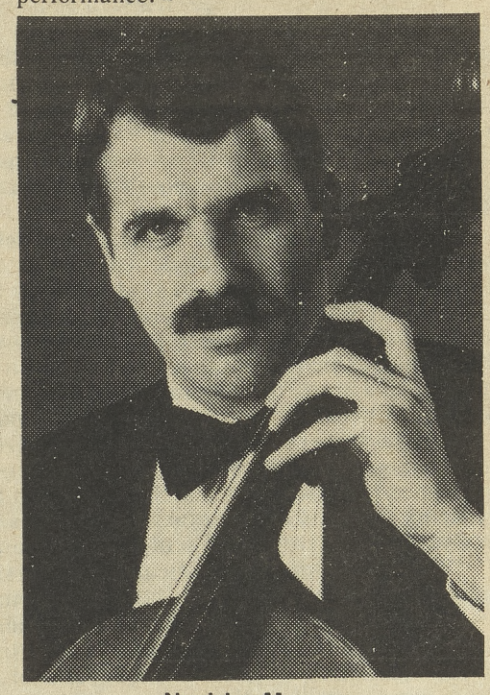
The Sacramento Symphony Chamber Orchestra will perform the third concert of its 1983-84 season Friday, February 10 at 8 p.m. at Hiram Johnson Auditorium, 14th Avenue at 65th St. The Assistant Conductor of the Sacramento Symphony, Michael Neumann, will conduct. Included on the program will be Lutoslawski's *Funeral Music*, Schumann's *Cello Concerto* and the Mozart *Serenade No. 7*, "Haffner."

Sponsors for the Chamber Orchestra Series are The Sacramento Bee and The Cook Company.

Performing the Schumann *Cello Concerto* will be Neal Lo Monaco, principal cellist of the Sacramento Symphony. Born and raised in New York City, Neal Lo Monaco studied at the Julliard School of Music and the Eastman School of Music. Lo Monaco continued doctoral work at Stanford University and participated in the Master Classes of Gregor Piatigorsky at UCLA in 1971.

Lo Monaco has concertized in the U.S. and Europe and has performed at Tanglewood. As a teacher, he has been on the faculties of the University of California at Santa Cruz, Stanford University, Dominican College, and the University of Santa Clara.

Tickets are $7 for adults, $3.50 for students and are available by phone charge from the Sacramento Symphony Office. For information call 973-0200, 8:30-5, weekdays. Tickets will also be sold at the door the night of performance.★



Neal Lo Monaco

Museum Concerts Offer Barbershop Quartets, French Horn, Mandolins—And High Tea

The American Victorian Museum in Nevada City has announced Sunday afternoon concerts for February 12, 19, and 26. The concerts, featuring the Berkeley Mandolin Ensemble with soprano Beverly Marks, french horn player Bill Barnewitz with pianist Theresa Keene, and barbershop quartets, will start at 4 p.m. A $4.50 donation ($3.50 for seniors and students) is requested. The price includes a High Tea reception in the Old Stone Hall of the Museum.

The Berkeley Mandolin Ensemble with Beverly Marks, soprano, will perform at the American Victorian Museum on Sunday, Feb. 12 at 4 p.m.

The varied program of the Ensemble will consist of classical, popular, and folk tunes such as the "Sonata in E Minor" by Vivaldi, the 1920's tune "The Hot House Rag," the Irish tune "Banish Misfortune" and David Grisman's "Ricochet" as well as several by Rudy Cipolla. Marks will sing selections from American and Japanese folk songs and from Mozart.

The Berkeley Mandolin Ensemble was formed eleven years ago by people who were interested in the mandolin and in exploring and playing its literature. This will be the second performance for them in Nevada City.

The professions of the members are quite varied and include music teacher, student, lawyer, government worker, dancer, Mariachi Band violinist and candy store owner. Members have studied with Vinzenc Hladky, Rudy Cipolla, David Grisman and Frank Wakefield. Several members have made successful albums and both Cipolla and Grisman have written music for movie sound tracks.

Beverly Marks, a soprano who lives in Nevada City, has just completed her role in the Victor Herbert Opera "Madeleine."

Bill Barnewitz, french hornist of the Sacramento Symphony, will perform at the American Victorian Museum on Sunday, Feb. 19, at 4 p.m. He will be accompanied by Theresa Keene on the piano.

Barnewitz and Keene will play Richard Strauss's "Adante," Cherubini's "Two Sonatas" and Beethoven's "Sonatas for Piano and Horn—Opus 17."

Barnewitz has studied at the North Carolina School of the Arts and Julliard in New York. He has played in the New York City Opera, the American Symphony Orchestra in New York, New York Chamber Soloists, and in the Vermont Mozart Festival.

Theresa Keene is an award winning pianist, acclaimed by the Sacramento Bee as being "absolutely marvelous—a model of accuracy, sensitivity and style." Beginning lessons at six, Keene was performing on radio and television by the age of eight and debuted with the Sacramento Symphony at twelve. She has also appeared with the San Francisco Conservatory Orchestra, the New York, Camelia, and North Area Symphonies, and is currently principal keyboardist for the Sacramento Symphony.

A special Sunday concert of the Yuba City Chapter of the Sweet Adelines and Men's Barbershop Quartet and four Nevada Union High School Quartets will perform at 4 p.m. on Feb. 26 at the American Victorian Museum in Nevada City. Called "Fun in February," this is a benefit performance for the Golden Empire Chapter of the United Nations Association.

The Yuba Feather Chapter of the Sweet Adelines, from Marysville and Yuba City, is one of the 26 chapters in Northern California and is directed by Beverly Marks. The Sweet Adelines are an international organization, with over 36,000 members, founded in 1948 in Oklahoma to promote barbership quartets all over the world.

The second part of the program will be given by four quartets from Nevada Union High School, under the direction of Don Baggett. Some of the sixteen high school members traveled to England to participate in last year's Shrewsbury Music Festival as part of the Nevada Union High School Honor Choir.

All concerts will be broadcast live over KVMR 89.5 and are made possible by a partially funded grant by the California Arts Council.★

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ITEMS

Yes, Virginia

By RICK VAN DYKE

The first concert in **Spectra 84,** a concert series of women's music being produced by **Satin Jacket Productions** to raise money for the **Sacramento Women's Center,** will feature **Mary Watkins and Gayle Marie with Jan Martinelli** on Saturday, Feb. 11, at 8 p.m. in the McClatchy High School Auditorium. Other performers in the series will be the **Robin Flower Band** on March 10, and **Judy Fjell/Nancy Vogl and Suzanne P. Shanbaum** on April 14. Single ticket prices range from $7-$10 per concert, series tickets are $18-$27 for three concerts, and special Friends of the Series tickets are $50 for the three concerts. Buy your tickets at **Lioness Books,** 2224 J Street, co-sponsor of Spectra 84, or order them from P.O. Box 162848, Sacramento 95816.

Also scheduled for Feb. 11 is **La Raza del Ambiente's Valentine's Ball,** 8 p.m. till 1 a.m. at **The Forum.** The dance will feature one of Sacramento's hottest Latin bands. Tickets are $5 in advance and $7 at the door. Call **Chica** at 444-6371 for ticket info.

And **WEAVE (Women Escaping A Violent Environment)** is also holding a dance on Feb. 11, to benefit their **Family Violence Program.** With a theme of **"Dance Through the Decades,"** the event will feature music and dances of the 50's, 60's, and 70's. Tickets are $5 for general admission and $4 for students and seniors. The place is the Sierra II cafeteria, 2791 24th Street, and the time is 8:30 p.m.

Image Makers' Studio—A Women's Artspace, 2405 Capitol Avenue, announces regular hours starting Sunday, Feb. 12, from noon to 5 p.m. The gallery will be open from noon to 5 Saturdays and Sundays from then on. On display now are photographs by **Remy Ceci** and **Pat Gargaetas,** paintings by **Celia Rodriguez,** prints and paintings by **Cynthia Seawomyn,** and sculpture and painting by **Abby Willowroot.**

The award-winning political documentary film **"The Battle of Chile,"** covering unique record of a society in crisis." A donation of $3 is requested.

Everyone is invited to a **Susan B. Anthony and Friends Birthday Party** on Tuesday, February 14, from 7 to 10 p.m. at the First Sacramento Women's Building, 2224 J Street. Admission to the event, a benefit for **Goddess Rising,** a non-profit educational and spiritual organization, is $3, and refreshments are free. Though the actual date of Susan B's birthday is Feb. 15, organizer **Ann Forfreedom** says, "We can celebrate her life, and our futures, on the 14th." For more information, call 451-9970.

Rick Van Dyke

The **AIDS Foundation's Grand Hawaiian Raffle** will take place on Feb. 19, so you can still get your tickets. They're only a dollar, and you could win roundtrip airfare for two to Hawaii, plus accommodations for a week.

Man to Man/Woman to Woman, the gay student union at **American River College,** has a new meeting place for the new semester. The group gathers in Davies Hall 108 at 1 p.m. every Monday except legal holidays. They're planning activities for the semester, such as a support group, social events, speakers, and films.

There's a new gay/lesbian group on the Sac State campus, according to faculty advisor, **Dr. Marty Rogers.** Social and educational activities will focus be the focus of **Gay and Lesbian Campus Network,** beginning with parents of lesbians and gay men discussing their experiences on Thursday, Feb. 16, and a discussion group on the coming out process, led by **Jill Christie** and **Mike Cicchitti,** on Tuesday, Feb. 28. The meetings are at 7 p.m. in the Ribera Room of the Food Services Building at CSUS.

Yes, Virginia, there are **Gay Republicans.** On the national level, **Leonard Matlovich,** who found fame and a spot on the cover of Time magazine when he sued the Air Force over his discharge for homosexuality, will head a political action group to lobby for gay rights among conservatives, according to **Stonewall Features Syndicate.** On the local level, **Bob Austin** wants to organize the Gay GOP. Interested persons should give him a call evenings or weekends at 925-8147.

Congratulations to **Debbie Wender,** formerly Director of the Sacramento Rape Crisis Center, who has been named **Rape Prevention Coordinator at UC Davis.**

The **Sacramento Rape Crisis Center** will soon be offering a new **training session** for women interested in volunteering to work on the rape crisis line. Counselors respond from their homes to calls from rape victims. They work on the immediate needs of victims, and may also accompany them through the medical exam, police investigation, and trial proceedings. The Rape Crisis Center also has six male counselors, for male victims of rape or male "significant others" of victims. A training course for additional male counselors is in the planning stages. Women and men interested in training as rape crisis counselors should call 447-3223.

The recently opened **Feminist Legal Services** group will present a workshop on **"Surviving the Trauma of Divorce—The Legal and Psychological Aspects,"** on Saturday, March 10, from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Community Room of Sierra II, 2791 24th St. Donations will be accepted and child care will be provided. For more information, contact Feminist Legal Services at 446-7244.

Realtor **Unni Shelton** was elected President of **River City Business Association** at the group's January general meeting. Joining her on RCBA's Board of Directors for 1984 are Vice President **John Peaslee,** Treasurer **Bob Austin,** Secretary **Ray Dale,** and Immediate Past President **Norv Giles.** They will be installed at RCBA's annual banquet, scheduled for Monday, March 12. Lesbians and gay men in business who'd like to get involved with this local professional organization should attend the general meeting on Monday, Feb. 13, at BoJangles-Scandals Lounge, 7042 Folsom Blvd. There's a social hour at 7 p.m., followed by the business meeting at 8, which will feature a discussion of **Investment Strategies and Methods** with **Linda Meller** from American Savings and Loan and **Diane Williams** of Wells Fargo Bank.

U.S. District Judge John P. Vukasin issued a permanent injunction Feb. 2 in San Francisco against the use of the word "Olympic" by the **Gay Games** in connection with its athletic competitions. **Mary Dunlap,** attorney for the Gay Games, replied "You bet!" when asked if she would appeal the ruling. Gay Games II will be held in 1986—Winter Games in Minneapolis/St. Paul; Summer Games in San Francisco.

When **Channel 40** did a feature on alternative newspapers in the Sacramento area (shown Feb. 6), reporter **Lonny Wong** focused on four publications: **The Sacramento Star,** the **Suttertown News, Aardvark,** and **Sacramento Valley Computer News.** The show pointed out the advantages of a well-defined audience for all concerned—readers, publishers, and advertisers.

An evaluations conference on the **Sacramento Ethnic Communities Survey** will be presented by the **California Cultural Alliance,** the **CSUS Ethnic Studies Department,** and the **Sacramento History Center** on Saturday, Feb. 25, in the Beehive Building, 2131 Q Street. Starting with an introduction at 9:45 a.m. the conference will proceed with two presentations on different ethnic groups in the area every half hour till 4:30 p.m. For more information, call the Sacramento History Center at 447-2958.★

Not Using Seat Belts Is Still Major Reason Why Kids Die In Car Accidents, CHP Says

Even though child safety seat use has been mandatory for children under four years old since January 1, 1983, the California Highway Patrol says youngsters are continuing to die in vehicle accidents because the seats are not being used.

CHP Commissioner James E. Smith said that "while the number of children killed in automobile accidents is tragic by itself, the appalling fact is that *most* of these youngsters would be alive if they had been riding in a properly attached child safety seat."

The statistics for the first nine months of 1983 show that 41 children under 4 were killed. The breakdown of those figures shows how few children are being protected in safety seats:

Children in properly attached seat	6
Child in improperly attached seat	2
Child in seat not attached at all	2
Seat in car but not used	2
No seat in car	23
Seat not a factor	6
TOTAL NUMBER KILLED	41

"We believe that if all children rode in properly attached safety seats, deaths could be reduced as much as 90 percent, injuries by 70 percent. Just looking at the figures we have so far for 1983, perhaps 29 children out of those 41 could still be alive," Smith said.

Injuries have been reduced about 8.5 percent for the first nine months of 1983 compared with the same period in 1982, showing that seats are having an impact. A total of 3,185 children under four were injured in the first nine months of 1983, compared to 3,479 for the same period in 1982.

CHP is backing up its belief in safety seats with vigorous enforcement of the child safety seat law. A total of 6,268 citations was issued from March 1 through December 31, 1983.

"We will continue to cite people who violate this law," Smith said. "Innocent children are not responsible for their own safety, parents are. Every parent is concerned with his or her child's well-being. This law just reinforces that concern, and sets up a process to assure the parental responsibility is carried out."

The law requires that children under four or under 40 pounds must be properly fastened in a securely attached child safety seat when riding with a parent or guardian in the family car or light truck. When a youngster meeting either the age or weight criterion is riding in other than the family vehicle, the child must be fastened in a safety seat or be secured by an available seat belt.★

Lung Association Invites Cross-Country Skiers To Sign Up For Lassen Nordic Trek

Applications for the third annual "Nordic Trek for Life and Breath" are now being accepted, Roger Dickinson, president of the American Lung Association of Sacramento-Emigrant Trails, announced recently.

This cross-country ski adventure will be held April 28 - May 2 in Lassen National Volcanic Park. The event is open to persons of all skill levels. The American Lung Association will provide training in nordic skiing and snow camping techniques.

"Trekkers" arrange sponsorships from area organizations, business firms and individuals. Funds raised will help support American Lung Association programs such as air conservation, school and occupational health, smoking cessation, research and patient services.

Dickinson says that since space is limited, interested persons should submit their applications as soon as possible. Applications are available at major ski and outdoor equipment shops throughout Sacramento and outlying communities, and at the American Lung Association office, 909 12th Street, Sacramento.

More information about the "Nordic Trek for Life and Breath" may be obtained by calling the American Lung Association at (916) 444-LUNG.★

SF AIDS Controversy

From Page 1

ducted the sexual practices survey, Leon McKusick, confirmed that "the single most influential thing that does impact on the sexual behavior is when they have seen someone in the advanced stages of the disease."

Considering the reactions of gay men to AIDS, sociologists and psychologists who have studied other epidemics insist that gay men are not reacting differently from any group of people in similar circumstances.

"You're not looking at a community that's weird," McKusick said. "A lot of cigaret smokers didn't quit smoking even when they knew it could cause lung cancer. Changes come in stages and that's what we're seeing here."★

For AIDS Information Call
448-AIDS

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453-3369

CALENDAR

From Page 2

Monday, February 13

★ Man to Man/Woman to Woman, Gay Student Union at American River College. Davies Hall 108. 1 p.m.

★ River City Business Association general meeting. Panel discussion on Investment Strategies and Methods with Linda Meller, American Savings & Loan, and Diane Williams, Wells Fargo Bank. BoJangles-Scandals Lounge. Social 7 p.m. Meeting 8 p.m.

★ Film "The Battle of Chile." Presented by the Central American Action Committee. $3 donation. La Semilla, 312 20th St. 7 p.m.

Tuesday, February 14

★ *St. Valentine's Day*

★ Monthly meeting of Advocates for Lesbian & Gay State Employees. Incredible Edible. 6 p.m.

★ "Susan B. Anthony and Friends Birthday Party." Brief musical sharing by Judy Fjell. Bring someone you love. Come in costume if you wish. $3 donation benefits Goddess Rising, a non-profit organization. First Sacramento Women's Bldg., 2224 J St. 7-10 p.m.

★ Capital City Squares. Coloma Community Center, 46th & T St. Call 488-2440 (days) or 486-0150 (eves). 7 p.m.

★ Raza del Ambiente, gay/lesbian Hispanic organization, meets. New members welcome. 7:30 p.m. Call Chica at 444-6371 for more info.

Wednesday, February 15

★ Deadline for The STAR.

★ *Susan B. Anthony's Birthday.*

★ SAGA II Tennis Club meets. Open to all interested players. Stumble Inn, El Camino at Mission. 6:30 p.m. For information, call Kathi, 443-0568.

★ New class—Clogging for beginners, presented by Ron Brewer and Sutter's Stompers. Call Joe, 455-7002, for information. Volcano Room, Coloma Community Center, 4623 T Street. 7-8:30 p.m.

★ Sacramento NOW general meeting and installation of officers. Free child care. Community Room, Sierra II, 2791 24th St. 7 p.m.

★ Sacramento Men's Collective business meeting. La Semilla, 312 20th St. 7:30 p.m. Call 441-1959 for information.

Thursday, February 16

★ Sacramento Lesbian/Gay Freedom Week Committee. Open planning meeting. First Sacramento Women's Building, 2224 J St. 7 p.m. Call Jerry Sloan, 381-3115, for info.

★ Gay and Lesbian Campus Network presents parents of lesbians and gay men discussing their experiences. Ribera Room, Food Services Building, CSUS. 7 p.m.

★ Volleyball for men and women. Sponsored by Our River City Family. $2.50 facilities fee. Call Paul, 371-2946, for info. Sacramento City College Women's Gym. 7-11 p.m.

★ Support group for women facing major life changes. Sponsored by Women Changing Direction. First Sacramento Women's Building, 2224 J St. Child care available by prior arrangement. For info: 444-8050. 7-9 p.m.

Friday, February 17

★ River City Democratic Club meeting and potluck. Senior Citizens Center, 27th & J St. 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 18

★ Sacramento Women's Rugby Team plays Santa Clara. Miller Park, Broadway & Front St., Sacramento.

★ Rowdiness, Irreverence, Music and Comedy with Judy Fjell and friends. La Semilla, 312 20th St. 8 p.m.

Sunday, February 19

★ Worship Service. Young people's rap & social hour afterwards. River City Metropolitan Community Church, 2741 34th Street. 454-4762. 11 a.m.

★ Women In Dignity. For women in or interested in the Catholic Church. 4 p.m. 444-8939 for info.

★ Transition (Gay Latter-Day Saints) Potluck/Discussion. Call 965-5084 or write 3030-B Q Street, Suite 215, Sacramento 95816. 6-9 p.m.

★ Chrysalis Neighborhood Church worship service. 3700 Y Street. 6 p.m. 736-0113 or 453-0791 for information.

★ Sacramento Men's Collective men-only potluck. 6 p.m. Call 441-1959 for place and directions.

★ Grand Hawaiian Raffle sponsored by Sacramento AIDS/KS Foundation. Call 448-AIDS for information.

Monday, February 20

★ *Presidents Day Holiday*

Tuesday, February 21

★ Capital City Squares. Coloma Community Center, 46th & T St. Call 488-2440 (days) or 486-0150 (eves). 7 p.m.

★ Raza del Ambiente, gay/lesbian Hispanic organization, meets. New members welcome. 7:30 p.m. Call Chica at 444-6371 for more info.

★ Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays Rap Group. Facilitated by Valerie Winn and Will Green. Primary Room 2, Fremont Presbyterian Church, H St. at Carlson Drive. 7:30 p.m. Call 428-4348 for info.

Wednesday, February 22

★ The STAR is published.

★ *George Washington's Birthday*

★ New class—Clogging for beginners, presented by Ron Brewer and Sutter's Stompers. Call Joe, 455-7002, for information. Volcano Room, Coloma Community Center, 4623 T Street. 7-8:30 p.m.

★ AIDS Foundation Board meeting. Open to the public. AIDS Foundation office, 2115 J St., Ste. 3. 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 23

★ Pizza and Postal Politics sponsored by Sacramento NOW. Nevada City Room, Coloma Community Center, 46th & T St. 5:30-7:30 p.m.

★ Support group for women facing major life changes. Sponsored by Women Changing Direction. First Sacramento Women's Building, 2224 J St. child care available by prior arrangement. For info: 444-8050. 7-9 p.m.

★ Volleyball for men and women. Sponsored by Our River City Family. $2.50 facilities fee. Call Paul, 371-2946, for info. Sacramento City College Women's Gym. 7-11 p.m.

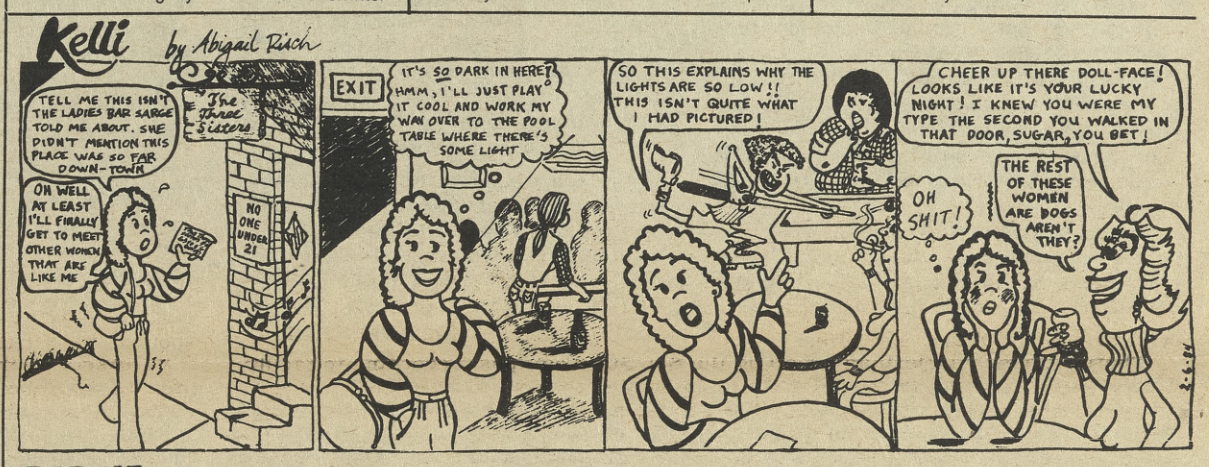
Saturday, February 25

★ No-tap, handicap bowling tournament. Sponsored by SAGA II. $6 registration. Land Park Bowl. 2 p.m. Call Jan, 391-4386, for info and registration.

★ Conference on Sacramento Ethnic Communities Survey, presented by California Cultural Alliance, CSUS Ethnic Studies Department, and Sacramento History Center. Beehive Building, 2131 Q St. 9:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m. For more information, call 447-2958.

Sunday, February 26

★ Worship Service. Young people's rap & social hour afterwards. River City Metropolitan Community Church, 2741 34th St.


Kelli by Abigail Rich
TELL ME THIS ISN'T THE LADIES BAR SARGE TOLD ME ABOUT. SHE DIDN'T MENTION THIS PLACE WAS SO FAR DOWN-TOWN
The Three Sisters
OH WELL AT LEAST I'LL FINALLY GET TO MEET OTHER WOMEN THAT ARE LIKE ME
NO ONE UNDER 21
EXIT
IT'S SO DARK IN HERE! HMM, I'LL JUST PLAY IT COOL AND WORK MY WAY OVER TO THE POOL TABLE WHERE THERE'S SOME LIGHT
SO THIS EXPLAINS WHY THE LIGHTS ARE SO LOW!! THIS ISN'T QUITE WHAT I HAD PICTURED!
CHEER UP THERE DOLL-FACE! LOOKS LIKE IT'S YOUR LUCKY NIGHT! I KNEW YOU WERE MY TYPE THE SECOND YOU WALKED IN THAT DOOR, SUGAR, YOU BET!
OH SHIT!
THE REST OF THESE WOMEN ARE DOGS AREN'T THEY?

BERNIE
WHAT BEAUTIFUL SCENERY, ALAN! JUST SPECTACULAR!
MOTHER NATURE IS TRULY IN HER FINEST FORM. WHAT COULD COMPARE TO THIS VISUAL BANQUET?
LOOK AT THE STUD IN THE TIGHT BLUE SKI PANTS!! WHAT A BODY!
WHAT A HUNK!!
YES, ALAN, WHAT CAN COMPARE TO SUCH PRIMAL BEAUTY! GEORGOUS!
NOT BAD.

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Lesbian artist/cartoonist wanted for The Star. Call 443-STAR or 452-1476.

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GM wants younger GM as roommate. Will furnish pad. Write Bert, 2308 P St. #20, Sacramento, CA 95816.

Roommate Matching. Have a room to rent, apartment or house to share? Need a room, or an apartment or house to share? Call Paul, 446-1171. A service of the CSUS Lesbian/Gay People's Union.

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♥ VALENTINES ♥

Scott, it's only right I love you. Loren. ♥

To Tracy Fallon Happy Valentine's Day. JHSTLY. ♥

Nikki—I never knew love like this before. I love you. Linda. ♥

Micky—Finally an eternity of happiness together—Love, Laura. ♥

To my sweetheart Claudia—I love your candy. Laurie. ♥

Suzette, woman of my dreams, my soulmate, my forever Valentine. Sara. ♥

Jason, God grant us many years. I love you. James. ♥

Albajon, you and I against the world. I love you I do. ♥

My Poosey Bear Jamie—I'm more in love now than 6 yrs ago. Happy Valentine's Day! Love, your Binty, Mr. Jay. ♥

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FINANCES

Get Tax Breaks If You Use Your Home For Business

By STEVE GIBBS

Many of us use our homes for business-related purposes. In many cases we have been using our principal place of residence for business purposes without realizing it, and we have not even considered how the tax consequences of this use affect our tax situation. Knowing the tax law and how it relates to you can make a big difference in your tax liability.

Anyone who has rented his or her home to another person(s) has converted that home from the status of "personal use" to "business use." The same thing is true if you rent out only a portion of your residence. If a taxpayer rents a part of his or her house to a roommate, then the part of the house that is rented is considered to be (for tax purposes) converted to "business use" or "income-producing" property. This is true regardless of whether you are buying, renting, or leasing the property yourself.

If you are one of the many people who rent part or all of your home to someone else you must report the income you receive from this rental to the Internal Revenue Service and pay the appropriate amount of income tax generated by this "rental income." The rental income is to be reported for the tax year that you received it, regardless of the period covered by the rent.

Reportable rental income can include other things besides just "rent money."

If your tenant pays you to break the lease, this payment is income to you. Also, if your tenant pays you either in part of in full with goods or services, you must report the fair market value of these goods or services as income.

There is one circumstance under which you do not need to report rental income. If you rent for less than fifteen days a dwelling that you use for a residence, then you do not have to report the income to the IRS.

As we all know, reporting rental income will increase your tax liability. Fortunately, IRS rules allow you to subtract (or deduct) from your gross income certain expenses related to the generation of this rental income. This will have the effect of canceling out (either partially or completely, depending on your situation) the tax liability caused by the rental income.

The deductions that are allowed under current law are much more restrictive for the rental of all or part of a personal residence than they are for the rental of a dwelling that is held exclusively as an "income-producing property."

If you have used a dwelling as a residence for more than 14 days or more than 10 percent of the number of days it was held for rent during the tax year, then you are considered to have used that dwelling for personal use. If, according to this rule, a rental unit is also used by you personally, then your allowable rental-related deductions cannot exceed your rental income. On the other hand, if you fail this use test, then your allowable rental deductions may exceed your rental income.

The net result is that if you rent part of your residence to a roommate, the tax law will allow you to shelter at least part of the income, but it will not allow you to deduct a net operating loss.

Some taxpayers have attempted to get around the personal-use test by claiming they never personally used the part of their residence being rented.

Using this reasoning puts you on very unstable ground with the IRS. If the dwelling is used by you personally as your residence and it is designed to be a single-family residence with one roof over the entire building, then it cannot be used to deduct a net operating business loss.

On the other hand, if the rental portion of your residence is set up so that the tenant has accommodations similar to a hotel or an inn, you might be allowed to show a net operating loss (if you have such a loss). The exact definition of this type of set-up has been argued in the tax courts with no definitive decisions.

However, there are guidelines to follow. If your net operating loss has the potential to be large and your residence lends itself to any physical modifications that might be necessary, you might want to consider the possibility of a hotel-type of operation.

To exclude the rental portion of your personal residence from the limitation imposed on the related deductions you must never occupy the rental portion for personal use at any time during the tax year. No one, except the tenant, should even enter the rental portion except to perform maintenance. There should be separate entrances and exits for you and the tenant(s). The tenant(s) should have exclusive toilet facilities separate from your own. There should be no common areas for the use of both you and the tenant(s).

Which expenses associated with the operation of the tenant-occupied portion of your house are deductible? These expenses may include all or part of mortgage interest, property taxes, rent you pay (if you are renting or leasing the dwelling), casualty losses associated with the rental, operating expenses (such as repairs, utilities, insurance and advertising), and depreciation.

Before deducting these expenses you must first determine what percentage of each individual expense relates to the rental portion of the residence. Only that part of each expense is deductible.

Any reasonable method may be used to determine the deductible amount. If you and two roommates live in your house, then two-thirds of the expenses that relate to the entire house would be deductible as expenses relating to the rental portion. An example of this would be mortgage interest.

In addition to determining the proper percentage of each deduction, you must also deduct your expenses in a certain order. There is a list, but the important thing to remember is that expenses that are allowed as *either* itemized deductions on schedule A (form 1040) *or* as rental-related deductions on schedule E (form 1040) must be taken first.

The IRS limits the taxpayer even further by requiring you to deduct first any rental-related deductions that could be used, instead, as itemized deductions on schedule A (form 1040). This pecking order prevents the person who rents a room to a roommate from deducting depreciation on his own home unless he has used up the other deductions first and even then only if the other deductions are less than the rental income.

The net result of these rules is this: If a taxpayer rents a room of his or her residence to a roommate and the taxpayer has enough personal deductions to itemize on schedule A (form 1040), then it will be almost impossible to completely shelter that rental income with rental-related deductions. The taxpayer in this situation will, almost without exception, end up paying at least some more income tax than he or she would if he or she were not renting out a room. If a taxpayer who rents a room to a roommate does not have enough personal deductions to itemize on schedule A (form 1040), then the chances are good that he or she will be able to shelter all or almost all of his or her rental income with rental-related deductions.

There is one other consideration to make. Very good tax advantages are given to taxpayers who sell their personal residence at a profit. Such profits can usually be deferred if the taxpayer purchases another personal residence of at least equal value within two years.

But if part of the residence has been converted to an income-producing status (e.g. part of the residence was rented to a roommate), then the taxes on the part of the profits that relate to the rental portion of the residence cannot be deferred.

However, there is a way to get around this provision. If the rental portion of the residence is converted back to personal use in the tax year prior to the year the residence is sold, then the entire dwelling will receive the tax advantages available for the sale of a personal residence. ★

Steve Gibbs is associated with Whisler and Associates, serving California in the preparation of tax returns since 1975. For specific tax advice, individuals should consult their own tax advisors.

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